



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **TAXPAYERS URGED: USE CAUTION IN SELECTING PREPARER**

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Pat Meehan and Leslie DeMarco, Special Agent-in-Charge of the IRS' Criminal Division, today urged taxpayers who haven't yet filed a return to use caution when selecting a preparer. Filings against six (seven) tax preparers were announced. The defendants, charged in unrelated Indictments or Informations<sup>1</sup>, are charged with preparing or filing false income tax returns, and/or tax evasion. The charges allege such criminal actions as inflating a client's charitable deductions, exaggerating a client's un-reimbursed job expenses, falsely reporting personal property taxes, and under reporting earned income.

"Paying taxes is not something we are expected to enjoy, but it is our obligation as responsible members of a democratic society," said Meehan. "When people entrusted with the job of accurately preparing tax returns violate the rules, it's the honest taxpayers who bear the burden of that fraud."

DeMarco warns taxpayers to select their return preparer wisely. "Taxpayers should choose their return preparer as carefully as they would their doctor or lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your tax return, you are ultimately responsible for the information that is on your tax return."

DeMarco adds "Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is".

Kenroy F. Anson, of Philadelphia, is charged with preparing 61 materially false tax returns for 32 clients for the calendar years 2003 and 2004, causing an estimated tax loss of approximately \$95,591. Anson allegedly prepared returns that falsely inflated charitable contributions, misstated filing statuses, fraudulently claimed personal property taxes were paid when they were not, and exaggerated un-reimbursed job expenses. If convicted of all charges, he faces a maximum sentence of 81 years in prison.

Eugene DiNatale, of Trumbauersville, and Chakawarn Sirirathasuk, of Upper Darby,

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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were indicted on charges they conspired to defraud the United States of America and filed false income tax returns. DiNatale owned and operated DiNatale & Associates, Ltd., in Rockledge, PA, a business that provided bookkeeping, accounting, and tax return preparation services. Sirirathasuk was employed as a Senior Accountant. The Indictment alleges that between 2001 and 2004, DiNatale and Sirirathasuk conspired to defraud the United States by failing to file Quarterly Federal Tax Returns, Form 941, for labor leasing agency clients of D&A. The form reflects employment taxes due to the government on wages those clients had paid to their employees, including withholdings of federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Compensation Act ("FICA") taxes. It is further alleged that DiNatale and Sirirathasuk filed tax returns for labor leasing clients that overstated the amount of business expense deductions and under reported the amount of taxable income earned by the clients, thereby, under reporting the amount of income tax due to the United States. The alleged schemes resulted in a total estimated tax loss to the IRS of more than \$4.8 million in uncollected employment taxes, and \$132,096 in uncollected corporate income taxes. If convicted, DiNatale faces a maximum sentence of 29 years in prison; Sirirathasuk faces a maximum sentence of 11 years in prison, if convicted.

Bartholomew Iacono and Regina Iacono-Dostillio are charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States and filing false tax returns in connection with their business, Gentile's Tax Service, located on South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Philadelphia. According to the Information, fraudulent returns were prepared for clients for tax years 2003, 2004, and 2005. Bartholomew Iacono allegedly created or inflated clients' charitable deductions, unreimbursed employee expenses, and/or education deductions. The Information alleges the defendants prepared returns that resulted in tax refunds for some clients that the defendants knew actually owed income taxes, resulting in a total loss to the IRS of more than \$125,000. If convicted, the defendants each face a maximum sentence of eight years in prison.

Vivian Calhoun, 55, is charged with aiding or assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax returns. According to the Information, between 2000 and 2004, Calhoun worked for Green's Tax Service at 2222 N. 29th St., Philadelphia, preparing tax returns for clients using false and inflated amounts for deductions. Calhoun is alleged to have caused a tax loss of \$282,694. If convicted, Calhoun faces a maximum possible sentence of six years imprisonment if convicted.

Robert Trauffer, a Certified Public Accountant and controller at Frankford Hospital, is charged with four counts of income tax evasion and 34 counts of filing false income tax returns. According to the indictment, Trauffer substantially under-reported his own income for the tax years 2001-2004, and falsified income tax returns for hundreds of customers, a large portion of whom were police officers and firefighters. Trauffer allegedly inflated either the charitable

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contributions, or the un-reimbursed employment expenses, or both, on the returns without the knowledge of the taxpayers, resulting in the taxpayers receiving refunds to which they were not entitled, and causing a total estimated tax loss to the IRS of \$189,316. Trauffer faces a maximum sentence of 122 years in prison if convicted.

These cases were investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

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